

TANEY COUNTY REPUBLICAN

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Somehow or Other We Seem to Have Lost our Grip as a Successful Weather Prophet

NO NEW CONSTITUTION OR NEW DISTRICTS.

Legislature Fails to Pass Redistricting Bill.

A Few Patches Proposed for the Old Constitution—Right of State Officers to Re-District in Doubt, but Another Gerrymander May Be Attempted.

Jefferson City, March 17.—The Forty-seventh general assembly has hesitated about providing for a convention to write a new constitution. As the democrats easily control 24 of the 34 senatorial districts and could therefore elect 48 of the 68 delegates who would sit in a constitutional convention it has been supposed that the democratic leaders would urge the legislature to pass a resolution submitting to popular vote a proposition to organize such a convention, but the only measure on the subject was killed in the senate last week, then revived and passed, and is now pending in the house. A convention cannot be called until the people vote for it. Several amendments to the old document are to be submitted, however, though the people are weary of patching it.

There will be no re-arranging of congressional districts this year, the legislature having failed to pass a congressional redistricting bill. From the democratic standpoint it is not desirable to change congressional districts, as fourteen of the sixteen are now democratic, though several would be closely contested were the republicans united.

The thirty-four senatorial districts may not be changed. The legislature has failed to pass a senatorial redistricting bill, just as it failed to do so in 1911, when it was required to do so, under section 7 of article IV of the constitution, which says:

Sec. 7.—Senators and representatives shall be chosen according to the rule of apportionment established in this constitution, until the next decennial census by the United States shall have been taken, and the result thereof as to this state ascertained, when the apportionment shall be revised and adjusted on the basis of that census and every ten years thereafter upon the basis of the United States census; or if such census be not taken, or is delayed, then on the basis of a state census; such apportionment to be made at the first session of the general assembly after each such census: Provided, that if at any time, or from any cause, the general assembly shall fail or refuse to district the state for senators, as required in this section, it shall be the duty of the governor, secretary of state and attorney-general, within thirty days after the adjournment of the general assembly on which such duty devolved, to perform said duty.

Under that section of the constitution the governor, attorney-general and secretary of state have laid out senatorial districts at the beginning of every decennial period since the constitution was adopted, democratic legislatures having failed to follow the mandate of the law. In 1911 Attorney General Major and Secretary of State Roach attempted a gerrymander of senatorial districts over the protest of Governor Hadley, who proposed a fair and lawful division of the counties. The supreme court declared the Major-Roach gerrymander unfair and unlawful, so the districts have remained as they were established in 1901. As the section above quoted prescribes that the redistricting shall be done by the first general assembly convening after the decennial census, or else by the state officers named, and as there was default by that assembly and by said officers the question has been raised, has the second assembly convening after the decennial census, or the state officers named, the right to

redistrict the state? This question may prevent Major, Barker and Roach from putting through a senatorial gerrymander, though they will attempt to do so. There is nothing, however, to prevent the people from adopting a measure changing senatorial districts.

The legislature "stuck to business" last week and passed a number of bills that have been on the calendars of the two houses for more than a month. The democratic "whips" have been careful to keep to the front all bills providing for new offices and good salaries for party workers. The board of pardons and paroles has been established and thus three democrats are provided with jobs at \$2500 a year and light work, with clerks, stenographers and pleasant offices. They may accomplish some good. The republicans have long advocated a pardon board to relieve the governor of an unfair burden and responsibility.

Work of Democratic Law Makers.

The legislature which adjourns this week has accomplished some good—has put into the form of law several propositions advanced by the republican party and recommended in the messages of a republican governor. These measures would have been enacted in 1909 or 1911 but for the dogged interference and opposition of the democratic state senate.

Scarcely a new idea has seriously engaged the present legislature, while a number of popular ideas have been taken up, discussed, and either mutilated or set aside. Lacking the courage to release the capitol building bonds from taxation so as to sell them, the democratic leaders have sought in several ways to get money out of them for the erection of the building, going even to the extent of passing a bill authorizing the payment of about \$150,000 to a big banking concern to sell the bonds at par, thus diverting that amount from the aggregate sum that ought to be derived from the bonds. Undoubtedly they would have released these bonds from taxation had not that method been suggested by the retiring republican governor. It is exceedingly painful to a democratic legislature to accept and honor the advice of a republican governor or the republican party concerning any matter relating to the welfare of the people. The bitter partisans who control the democratic legislature would rather steal republican ideas cloth them in democratic pretense and put them through on the recommendation of a democratic governor. They seem to think that such a process will fool the people and reflect credit upon the democratic party. It is a sleek scheme, but as long as a republican press exists in the state the leaders cannot escape publicity. Practically the entire legislative work of the present session of an overwhelmingly democratic legislature was suggested, promoted and made popular by republican leaders in the state, except that the democrats took advantage of public sentiment to create a large number of offices, and to prepare for the organization of an army of democratic officials to put into operation ideas suggested by republicans.

Although it was charged frequently that the board of railroad and warehouse commissioners was at all times a political machine for the convenient use of the democratic party, it never had but a small fraction of the political power and prestige to be exercised by the public service commission recently created by the legislature. The commission will absolutely dominate railroad, street railway, telegraph, telephone and express companies and will be in position to make the officers, and even the employees, of such companies dance to democratic music. The new law provides no safe guards whatever against the possible use of the commissioners in behalf of their political purposes.

TEST YOUR SEED CORN

YOU LOSE FOUR DOLLARS When You Plant an Ear That Will Not Grow

The average seed ear of corn has 500 kernels, which, if all should grow, would produce 800 stalks, which should produce 800 ears of corn. Eight hundred ears of corn would make about 8 bushels, which at the moderate price of 50 cents, would be worth \$4.00.

Repeated tests from all parts of the corn belt reveal the sad story that the dampness in immature corn has caused much of it to be frozen so that it will

not grow. If we are to have a corn crop of normal proportions, every ear should be tested to see whether it is alive or dead.

No man can tell whether corn will grow or not without making a germination test. No man can select corn by looking at it. He may be able to tell some that will not grow, but he can never be sure of that which will grow. A fine looking ear may have been pollinated by a sterile father.

A SIMPLE ONE-ACRE TEST

Take twelve of your seed ears, selected according to your best judgment, arrange them in a row where they will not be disturbed, or with a tack put a numbered slip on the butt of each ear, numbering from one to twelve.

Take a piece of any kind of cloth, a yard or more in length and eight or ten inches in width; mark twelve 3-inch squares down the middle of the cloth, as per diagram, with a wax crayon pencil, and number

each square and soak the cloth in water.

Carefully remove six to ten kernels in a spiral around the ear, taking them out with the tip of a pen knife from the edge of the kernel, being careful not to injure the germ.

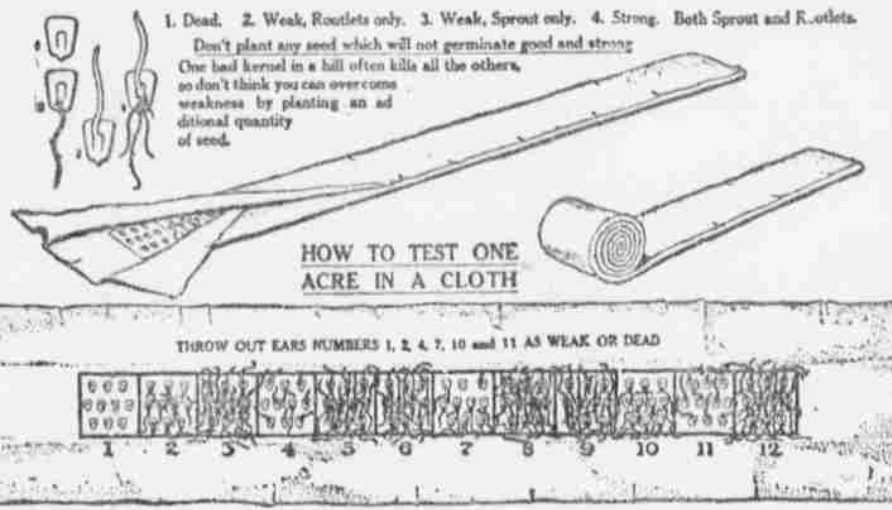
Place them in numbered squares corresponding to numbers on ears. After dampening the cloth thoroughly, roll up a little wet sawdust or sand in the end to help retain

the moisture. Fold the cloth over from the sides, as shown by diagram, and roll up as shown. Place the roll in a bucket or box of damp sawdust or sand, and put behind the stove, or some place where it will not chill. It is best to keep the temperature about 70 degrees, more or less. At the end of five or six days the rolls may be opened, and you can learn from this simple test the condition of your seed corn.

To the Children of the Public Schools

This test being so simple, we think that you will find it interesting to obtain twelve ears of seed corn from one farmer, each pupil getting seed from a different farmer, and making this test at school, letting each farmer know what per cent of his corn will not grow.

Full directions for this work may be had of Bert Ball, Sec'y Crop Improvement Committee, Room 1, Board of Trade Chicago.



CORN FOR SEED PURPOSES IN WORSE CONDITION THAN HAS EVER BEEN KNOWN

HOW TO TEST TEN OR MORE ACRES IN A BOX

If you are in doubt as to the condition of your seed corn, it would be well for you to make a shallow box, some two or three inches deep, large enough to make a test for ten acres; that is, twelve squares one way by ten across. The box should be about 30x40 inches. Fill the box about half full of moist dirt, sand or sawdust. We prefer sawdust because it is lighter and can be handled in the house. Press it well down so that it will have a smooth even surface. Take a white cloth about the size of the box, rule it off checkerboard fashion, making the squares two or three inches each way, numbering 1, 2, 3, etc. Take a flour sack or make a pad to fit the top of the box, padding it with an inch or two of moist sawdust or sand. Remove six to ten kernels from each ear selected, numbering each ear and putting the kernels from each in the corresponding square in the box. Place the box in a warm place where it will not chill. Keep the pad well dampened and warm, and in five or six days you can roll up the pad carefully, and you will find that your seed will show its quality: kernels which show both sprouts and roots in healthy condition are fit for planting; ears from which the kernels show sprouts only, or roots only, may or may not grow, but it is best not to take any chances with such ears. All weak and dead ears should be thrown into the feed box and the test repeated until you are sure you have enough perfect ears to plant your acreage.

PREPARED BY THE CROP IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE, COUNCIL OF GRAIN EXCHANGES FOR ADDITIONAL COPIES ADDRESS: BOARD OF TRADE, KANSAS CITY, MO.

The above plate was prepared last year, and while the corn in the country is in much better condition than it was then, it will nevertheless pay every farmer to test his seed corn. The following suggestions were prepared for 'The Farmers' Mail and Breeze' by C. P. Hartley, in charge of seed corn investigations, U. S. Department of Agriculture:

Soil and seed are two prime items in obtaining a profitable corn crop. The seed supply can be greatly improved in quality and productiveness by discarding the poor ears and poor kernels. The best time to grade seed corn is before shelling. The office of corn investigations of the United States department of agriculture has proved by careful field experiments that an ear having kernels of undesirable shapes produces ears most of which have kernels of undesirable shapes. All ears that are undesirable for one reason or another should be discarded before making germination tests.

Those who have neglected to take good care of their seed corn may now find "dead" ears among their supply. In such cases it will be profitable to test the germination of each ear separately. Where well adapted varieties are grown that properly mature before frost, poor germination has never been found among ears selected as soon as

nature and cared for properly. Those who have given their seed proper care should pick out 100 representative ears and make a germination test of 10 grains from each ear. If these ears germinate well it is not necessary to test the remainder of the seed supply.

Before shelling the small kernels should be discarded from an inch or more off the tips of the ears. Accurate field tests have proved these small kernels to be less productive than the fully developed kernels of the same ears. The thick, irregularly shaped kernels should also be discarded from the butts of the ears. These kernels produce satisfactorily but their size or shape prevents the corn planter from dropping them satisfactorily. It is convenient to nub the entire supply of ears before the shelling process is begun. Many farmers who plant 20 or 40 acres of corn, carefully shell their seed by hand and are profited by so doing. A few remarkably successful extensive corn growers shell hundreds of bushels by hand. Where much seed is required there is a strong temptation to run it through the corn sheller. Hand shelling is profitable for the small farmer and more profitable for the extensive farmer. The sheller breaks or cracks some of the kernels and there is not the opportunity of examining kernels from different portions of each ear as in shelling by hand. After being nubbbed the proper

way is to shell by hand, one ear at a time, into a sieve that will let the chaff fall through and leave all the kernels from the ear in plain view for inspection. If unsatisfactory, all the kernels can be easily discarded and another ear shelled. The ears should not be shelled directly into the general seed supply for it would then be difficult to separate and discard the undesirable kernels.

Attention, Strawberry Growers.

Two years ago the Missouri State Horticultural Society, under the auspices of the Missouri State Board of Horticulture, held a Strawberry Congress at Neosho, Mo.

The strawberry growers of the state have been urging the Board to have another congress this year where they can discuss the strawberry situation. In answer to this demand the Board of Horticulture has decided to hold a Strawberry Congress at Neosho, April 15th and 16th of this year.

The program has not been made up yet, but the preliminary arrangements have been made, which confine the addresses and discussions of the first day to the production of strawberries. This would, of course, include strawberry soils, varieties, diseases, cultivation, etc.

The speakers of the second day will take up the commercial side of strawberry growing, discussing under that

head picking, grading, packing, marketing, refrigeration, etc.

The strawberry congress is held before the picking season so that the growers and shippers may have the benefit of any information gained at the meeting in taking care of the crop this season.

The programs for the meeting will be distributed in a short time. The Secretary of the State Board of Horticulture will be glad to furnish further information of this meeting to any one who is interested.

ASHLEIGH P. BOLES, Secretary, Columbia, Mo.

It Was Not a Major Idea.

Governor Major is boasting much about the enactment of a bill creating a board to take the place of the board of railroad and warehouse commissioners, with power to regulate the rates and service of public utility companies; but the governor fails to mention the fact that his democratic friends in the state senate twice defeated a similar (and, in many respects, a better) bill, simply because it was pledged by the republican party, recommended by a republican governor and passed once by a republican house. These facts should deter a sincere man from attempting to take all credit for the final consummation of the long considered plan to put the public utilities of the state under proper control.

Former Governor Alexander M. Dockery, of Gallatin, has been appointed Third Assistant Postmaster General by President Wilson. He will largely control the financial system of the department. Governor Dockery, when a member of congress, devoted himself to the study of the postal system. He brought about several improvements in the money order service. His appointment is greatly appreciated by his democratic friends in Missouri, as he is a popular "old guard" leader and free from any question as to his political attitude and convictions, though he does know how to "wink the other eye."

Joplin and Springfield, the two thriving cities of Southwest Missouri, are to adopt the commission form of government, under an enabling act passed by the legislature. If the plan works successfully in those cities it will be demanded by many if not all of the cities of the state, except, perhaps, Kansas City and St. Louis, where municipal government is a big proposition. Missouri is advancing, having gotten a good start during four years of progressive republican rule.

President Wilson tried the first day he took possession of the White House to keep away the hungry horde of democratic office seekers by giving them public notice to see the heads of departments first and then wait for an invitation to call at the White House. Such invitations have not gone out numerous to the democrats who have been paying big hotel bills at the capital and they have become seriously disgruntled and mad.

Lieutenant-Governor Painter, being a modest and retiring man, did not undertake to distinguish himself while acting as governor during the absence in Washington of Governor Major, though he had opportunity to do things that might have placed his name in bold, black type in all the newspapers. He was wise in not inviting unnecessary trouble.

The democratic legislature has provided for a little additional revenue from the liquor interests, and a very large draft upon the state treasury for new offices created for democratic partisans.

Mr. Bryan has assumed the role of an apostle of peace though the guns of the army and navy have been kept in easy shooting distance on the borders and near the shores of Mexico.